

DISPLAY CONTAINER

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to packaging, and more particularly relates to merchandising
5 display packaging.

Background of the Invention

Various merchandising display packages or containers are known in the art. For
example, U.S. Patent 3,913,774 discloses a container having tubular central sections and rigid
10 end caps and that various techniques have been employed for joining these items such as
adhesive, tape, frictional engagement, staples, and other fastening materials. The '774 patent
discloses a container having a central section forming sides in positive engagement with a pair of
rigid end caps. The '774 patent further discloses that the central section may have a cross-
sectional shape such as circular or rectangular and may be cut to any desired length. U.S. Patent
15 4,191,321 discloses an oval shaped thermo plastic central section having paperboard end caps
inserted in the ends of the central section to form a container. And, U.S. Patent 4,700,883
discloses packaging having rigid end caps for engaging with rectangular tubes formed from a
flexible, semi-rigid sheet stock. Tabs formed as part of the end caps engage with slots formed in
the rectangular tubes.

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Brief Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides an improvement over the aforesaid prior art packaging. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, a novel merchandising display package or container is disclosed having a first and a second end cap, a central portion coupled to the first and the second end caps, and a member extending between and secured in position by the end caps.

In a second embodiment a display package or container for displaying items is disclosed having a first and a second end cap, with each end cap comprising a depression shaped to secure the item to be displayed, and a central portion coupled to the first and the second end caps.

10 Brief Description of the Drawings

Further details of the present invention will be seen from the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the drawings, wherein like numerals depict like parts, and wherein:

FIG. 1 shows a front sectional view of a first exemplary package consistent with the present invention;

FIG. 2 shows a bottom view of an end cap of the novel package of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 shows a side sectional view of the end cap of FIG. 2 taken through line 3-3 in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 shows a partial front sectional view of a second exemplary package consistent with the present invention;

FIG. 5 shows a side view of an end cap of FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 shows a partial front sectional view of a first embodiment for joining an end cap and a tube consistent with the present invention;

FIG. 7 shows a partial front sectional view of a second embodiment for joining an end cap and a tube consistent with the present invention;

5 FIG. 8 shows a partial front sectional view of a third embodiment for joining an end cap and a tube consistent with the present invention; and

FIG. 9 shows a partial front sectional view of a fourth embodiment for joining an end cap and a tube consistent with the present invention.

10 Detailed Description of Embodiments of the Invention

FIG. 1 shows a first embodiment of container 100. The container 100 may used to display an item 116 for sale. The container 100 comprises a first end cap 102, a second end cap 104, a central portion 106, and a merchandise card 110. The end caps 102/106 may be molded, for example blow molded, and may have a predetermined cross section. Alternatively, the end caps 102/104 may be formed from a metal or any paper product including cardboard. The cross section of the end caps 102/104 may comprises a cross section selected from the group consisting of an oval, a circle, an ellipse, a rectangle, and a polygon. The end caps 102/104 may comprise a groove 102B/104B enclosed inside of a lip 102E/104E. The end caps 102/104 may comprise an opening 102D/104D, for example a slot, for securing a merchandise card 110, upon which in turn is secured an item 116 for sale. Merchandise card 110 also can carry graphics or other information about the item for sale, instructions, etc. The opening 102D/104D is shown as a slot extending along a straight line. Alternatively, the opening may be curved. The bottom of